

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

MC-02 IO-10 EB-07 TRSE-00 /082 W

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R 181415Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8863

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCEUR

US NATO 3588

USAFE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

S E C R E T ANKARA 3096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, TU

SUBJ: EFFECTS OF ARMS CUTOFF ON TURKISH AIR FORCE

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH AIR FORCE (TAF) IS APPARENTLY SEEKING TO REASSURE TURKISH PUBLIC (AND PERHAPS WARN GREEKS) THAT U.S. ARMS CUTOFF HAS NOT RPT NOT DIMINISHED ITS COMBAT CAPABILITIES. WHILE TAF'S READINESS IN TERMS OF NATO COMMITMENTS IS REAPIDLY DECLINING, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE ABLE TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF A SHORT, INTENSIVE CONFLICT AT LEAST INTO COMING SUMMER MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PUBLIC STATEMENT IN IZMIR APRIL 17, TURKISH AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL ALPKAYA CLAIMED THAT CONGRESSIONAL ARMS CUTOFF HAS AS YET HAD NOT RPT NO IMPACT ON HIS FORCES, WHICH REMAIN READY TO REPEL ANY HOSTILE ACTION. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT CONTINUATION OF ARMS CUTOFF WOULD POSE PROBLEM FOR TAF, ALPAKYA STATED THAT TURKEY IS NOW GETTING FROM EUROPE MATERIAL FORMERLY

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SUPPLIED BY U.S. IN THIS REGARD, HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY

TO TALKS WITH GERMAN FIRM MANUFACTURING ENGINES FOR
F-4 PHANTOMS AND TO FURTHER PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT
(F-104S) FROM ITALY.

3. ALSO ON APRIL 17, FOUR PHANTOM AIRCRAFT MADE LOW
LEVEL PASSES OVER BOSPHOROUS IN ISTANBUL. PRIOR
ANNOUNCEMENT IN PRESS AND ON RADIO ASSURED LARGE
NUMBER OF SPECTATORS.

4. COMMENT: FROM INFORMATION AVAILBLE TO JUSMMAT
AND DATT WE CONCLUDE THAT TAF IS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
PROBLEM IN MEETING NATO READINESS CRITERIA. (LAST
WEEK 75 AIRCRAFT WERE GROUNDED, ACCORDING TO INFORMAL
REPORTS, AS CONTRASTED TO AVERAGE OF ABOUT 16 PRIOR TO
DECEMBER ARMS CUTOFF.) WE ESTIMATE NEVERTHELESS THAT
TAF WILL RETAIN THE ABILITY TO MEET REQUIREMENT OF SHORT,
INTENSIVE CONFLICT AT LEAST UNTIL MID OR LATE SUMMER (SEE USDAO
081118Z APR 75) THIS CAPABILITY COULD, OF COURSE,
BE FURTHER EXTENDED SHOULD ALTERNATE SOURCES FOR SPARE
PARTS BE LOCATED.
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